

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 /096 W

----- 021840

R 271815Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8603

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 261

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1626

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, CH, KN, KS, US, UN

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY ON STATE VISITS TO CHINA, NORTH  
KOREA

REF: A) GABORONE 1526, B) GABORONE 1592: C) GABORONE A-58 (NOTALS)

SUMMARY: GOB EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY TIBONE SAYS PRC-GOB  
ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL AGREEMENT IS GENERAL STATEMENT WITH SPECIFICS  
TO BE WORKED OUT AT LATER DATE. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY WORK ETHIC  
IN PRC AND DPRK BUT DID NOT FIND THEM MODELS FOR BOTSWANA.  
TIBONE CONCEDES THAT "IMPERIALIST AGRESSION" PHRASE IN KHAMA'S  
PYONGYANG SPEECH AIMED INDIRECTLY AT U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF HELD DISCUSSIONS AGUSUT 25 WITH CHARLES TIBONE, SECRE-  
TARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ON SEVERAL TOPICS. MOST IMPORTANT  
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OF THESE WAS STATE VISITS TO PRC AND NORTH KOREA.

2. CHINA: TIBONE SAID THAT CHINA VISIT WAS "EXCITING". TIBONE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE AMOUNT OF WORK BEING DONE EVERYWHERE. SCHEDULE SOMEWHAT DISRUPTED BY THE THE EARTHQUAKE.

3. ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL AGREEMENT. TIBONE CONFIRMED WHAT EMBASSY HAD LEARNED FROM OTHER, I.E., THAT AGREEMENT VERY GENERAL. GOB BRIEFED PRC OFFICIALS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ON BOTSWANA INTERNAL SITUATION BUT MADE NO SPECIFIC REQUEST. ANY "MEAT" TO BE PUT ON FRAMEWORK WILL COME FROM "FOLLOW-UP" TALKS. TIBONE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN THESE TALKS WILL BE HELD BUT SAID THAT THEY WILL BE WITH PRC EMBOFFS HERE OR VISITING CHINESE DELEGATION. HE EMPHASIZED TO EMBOFF THAT RUMORS CONCERNING CHINESE INVOLVEMENT IN RAILROAD OR OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE SHEER SPECULATION.

4. KHAMA'S JULY 27 PEKING BANQUET SPEECH: ACCORDING TO JULY 29 BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS, KHAMA SPOKE ON EVILS OF RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND CONGRATULATED PRC ON THEIR REVOLUTION. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF WESTERN COUNTRIES IN THE ARTICLE. HOWEVER, JOHANNESBURG RAND DAILY MAIL OF SAME DAY SAID THAT KHAMA'S SPEECH ALSO DESCRIBED U.K., FRG AND FRANCE AS "BEING PREPARED TO ARM SOUTH AFRICA WITH NUCLEAR POWER TO ENABLE THAT COUNTRY TO SILENCE THE VOICES OF CHANGE IN AFRICA." KNOWING DAILY MAILS'S PENCHANT FOR MISQUOTES, EMBOFF INQUIRED WHETHER KHAMA HAD MADE SUCH A STATEMENT. TIBONE SAID THAT EXACT WORDS NOT CORRECT BUT THAT THERE WAS LANGUAGE ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN SPEECH. HE STATED GOB AWARE THAT USG NOT IN BUSINESS OF SUPPLYING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY SO THAT CHANGE MAY BE SLOWED. HOWEVER, PRIVATE AMERICAN CORPORATIONS PREPARED TO SUPPLY SUCH TECHNOLOGY. TIBONE ADDED THAT "FORTUNATELY FOR YOU (USG)". FRENCH HAD BEEN AWARDED CONTRACT.

5. NORTH KOREA: TIBONE IMPRESSED WITH STRIDES NORTH KOREANS HAVE MADE IN DEVELOPING THEIR COUNTRY. HOWEVER, DPRK EXTREMELY REGIMED AND NOT APPROPRIATE MODEL FOR BOTSWANA. HE ALSO FOUND KIM IL SUNG TO BE "RUTHLESS DICTATOR LIKE PAK CHONG HUI". IN TIBONE'S OPINION, NEITHER ONE REALLY INTERESTED IN "KOREAN PEOPLE", ONLY IN THEIR OWN POWER.

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6. KHAMA'S PYONGYANG SPEECH: ONLY OTHER MAJOR ADDRESS ON TRIP WAS DURING AUGUST 9 PYONGYANG BANQUET. EMBOFF AKSED WHETHER TEXT OF DAILY NEWS ARTICLE (REF A) ACCURATE RENDITION OF SPEECH. EMBOFF PARTICULARLY REQUESTED EXPLANATION OF INTENT OF STATEMENT CONGRATULATING NORTH KOREANS FOR "SOCIALIST RECONSTRUCTION FOLLOWING THE IMPERIALSIT AGRESSION AGAINST THE KOREAN PEOPLE IN 1950". TIBONE RESPONDED THAT ARTICLE FAIRLY ACCURATE AND THAT "IMPERIALIST AGRESSION" PHRASE NEARLY WORD-FOR-WORD FORM KHAMA'S TEXT.

7. TIBONE EXPLAINED THAT BOTSWANA HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA BECAUSE GOB "RECOGNIZES ALL KOREAN PEOPLE". IN THAT CONTEXT, GOB VIEWS KOREAN CONFLICT AS CIVIL WAR. "AGGRESSION" NOT COMMITTED UNTIL UN FORCES "INTERNATIONALIZED" THE WAR. PHRASE "IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION" AIMED AT UNITED NATIONS TROOPS AND THEREFORE ONLY INDIRECTLY AT U.S. AS PART OF UN CONTINGENT.

8. TIBONE FURTHER NOTED THAT THE MAIN POINT OF THAT PARTICULAR PHRASE WAS INTENDED TO BE THE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KOREAN PEOPLE FOR THEIR RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS SINCE THE WAR. HE SEEMED EXPREMELY IMPRESSED BY PYONGYANG WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REBUILTSINCE BEING "LEVELLED BY UN FORCES".

9. OBVIOUSLY PALCED ON THE DEFINSIVE BY EMBOFF'S PROBING, TIBONE EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES THAT BOTSWANA IS "NOT GOING CHINESE". IN FACT, HE SAID THAT TWO NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS, WHO HAD OBTAINED ADVANCE COPY OF PYONGYANG SPEEC, BITTERLY CIRTICIZED FACT THAT IT DID NOT CONDEMN "PUPPET REGIME OF PAY CHONG HUI". TIBONE CLAIMS TO HAVE TOLD THEM OFF. ALL BOTSWANA'S FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS, ACCORDING TO BINE, ARE BASED STRICTLY ON PRINCIPLE, EVEN THOUGH GOB KNOWS IT WILL NOT "GAIN FINANCIALLY" BY SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREAN POSITION.

10. COMMENT: THE TRIP TO CHINA AND NORTH KOREA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MODEST PLUS FOR HOSTS. RESULTS WERE MIXED. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, THE PRC-GOB AGREEMENT, HOWEVER GENERAL, FURTHER FIRMS UP THE CHINESE POSITION IN BOTSWANA. GIVEN THE SOVIET SUCCESSES IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, THIS MUST BE GOOD NEWS FOR THE PRC. IN ADDITIONAN, THE APPARENT MANIA FOR HARD WORK AND DISCIPLINE WHICH CHINESE AND NORTH KOREANS EVIDENCED CLEARLY IMPRESSED THE BATSWANA. ANOTHER PLUS FOR THE NORTH

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KOREANS IS THAT THIS VISIT SHOULD STRENGTHEN BOTSWANA'S SUPPORT, ALREADY FIRM, FOR THE DPRK'S POSITION IN THE UN.

11. NEGATIVE ASPECTS: HOWEVER IMPRESSED THE GOB DELEGATION MAY HAVE BEEN WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CHINESE AND NORTH KOREAN SOCIETY, THE PERSONS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN HOLD RATHER JAUNDICED VIEWS OF THE REGIMENTATION AND REPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERES, PARTICULARLY OF THE DPRK. POLICE COMMISSIONER HIRSCHFELD TOLD CIPLO-MATIC WIVES AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY THAT CHINA AND NORTH KOREA ARE LIKE "PRISONS" (REF B). PRESIDENT KHAMA'S SON, IAN, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE FOUND ATMOSPHERE IN THOSE COUNRIES TOTALLY ALIEN AND THAT DEVELOPMENT THERE ACHIEVED AT TOO GREAT A COST IN TERMS OF REGIMENTATION (REF C). TIBONE COMMENTED IN SIMILAR VEIN THAT KIM IL SUNG A "RUTHLESS DICTATOR" AND THAT NORTH KOREA NOT APPROPRIATE MODEL FOR BOTSWANA. IN VIEW OF THESE PRELIM-

INARY REACTION, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT NORTH KOREANS IN PARTICULAR

WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED TO VISIT BOTSWANA, RATHER THAN TO PLAY  
HOST ON THEIR OWN TURF.

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## Message Attributes

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